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15. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 11 which is DNA and comprises a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence [SPAPPACDLRVLSKLLRDDHVLHSRL] ~~SPAPPACDLRVLSKLLRDSHVLSRL~~ (SEQ ID NO: 2).

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to circumscribe the *human* mpl ligand polypeptide. Support for this language can be found throughout the specification and specifically on page 13, line 24. The specification, sequence listing and claims have also been amended to describe the corrected mature human mpl ligand amino terminus (*i.e.* the mature portion of "exon 2"). Specifically, the Asp (or D in single letter designation) at residue 19 has been deleted and Ser (or S in single letter designation) inserted therefor. Support for this amendment can be found in Figure 7 which shows the deduced amino acid sequence for the human "exon 2" to be Ser at residue 19. Accordingly attorney for applicants believe no new matter has been added.

There are three U.S. patents 4,894,440, 5,260,417 and 5,326,558, and a publication Mignotte *et al.* which were cited by an Examiner in a related case that may be material to the prosecution of the instant case (copies not provided at this time).

Early entry of these amendments is requested. The inventors submit that this application is now in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821-1.825, and respectfully request further processing of this application.

I hereby state that the Sequence Listing submitted with this application is submitted in paper copy and a computer-readable diskette, and that the content of the paper and computer readable copies are the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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